Amendments to the Specification.

On page 23, beginning immediately before the line labeled "5" , please add the following new paragraph:

-- Modified human TPO (1-174) peptides of the invention include peptides designated M1 through M67, which have the following amino acid residue sequences: SEQ ID NO: 6 through SEQ ID NO: 72, respectively . Wild-type TPO (1-174) is designated herein as M68 and has the amino acid residue sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4. The Fc domain of human IgG4, which is designated as F1 herein, has the amino acid residue sequence of SEQ ID NO: 73. A linker peptide utilized in the fusion proteins of the invention is designated L1, and has the amino acid residue sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5. --

Please delete Table A1, beginning at line 5 on page 23 and extending through line 17 on page 32 of the specification (i.e., delete the heading of the table and the sequences labeled "M1" through "M67").

Please delete Table A2, at lines 20-27 on page 32 of the specification (i.e., delete the entire heading of the table and the sequence labeled "M68").

Please delete Table A3, at lines 29-38 on page 32 of the specification (i.e., delete the entire heading of the table and the sequence labeled "F1").

Please delete Table A4, at lines 41-44 on page 32 of the specification (i.e., delete the entire heading of the table and the sequence labeled "L1").

On page 32, line 46, please delete the heading "Table 5"

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 47 on page 32 with the following amended paragraph:

-- ~~Fusion~~ Examples of fusion proteins F - M of the present invention (in which F is any immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region and M is a modified TPO sequence of ~~Table A1~~ the invention) include the following:

F - M1, F - M2, F - M3, F - M4, F - M5, F - M6, F - M7, F - M8, F - M9, F - M10, F - M11, F - M12, F - M13, F - M14, F - M15, F - M16, F - M17, F - M18, F - M19, F - M20, F - M21, F - M22, F - M23, F - M24, F - M25, F - M26, F - M27, F - M28, F - M29, F - M30, F - M31, F - M32, F - M33, F - M34, F - M35, F - M36, F - M37, F - M38, F - M39, F - M40, F - M41, F - M42, F - M43, F - M44, F - M45, F - M46, F - M47, F - M48, F - M49, F - M50, F - M51, F - M52, F - M53, F - M54, F - M55, F - M56, F - M57, F - M58, F - M59, F - M60, F - M61, F - M62, F - M63, F - M64, F - M65, F - M66, F - M67. --

On page 33, line 7, please delete the heading "Table A6"

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 8 on page 33 with the following amended paragraph:

-- ~~Fusion~~ Examples of fusion proteins F - L - M of the present invention (in which F is any immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region, L is a ~~any~~ linker peptide, and M is a modified TPO sequence of ~~Table A1~~ the invention) include the following:

F - L - M1, F - L - M2, F - L - M3, F - L - M4, F - L - M5, F - L - M6, F - L - M7, F - L - M8, F - L - M9, F - L - M10, F - L - M11, F - L - M12, F - L - M13, F - L - M14, F - L - M15, F - L - M16, F - L - M17, F - L - M18, F - L - M19, F - L - M20, F - L - M21, F - L - M22, F - L - M23, F - L - M24, F - L - M25, F - L - M26, F - L - M27, F - L - M28, F - L - M29, F - L - M29, F - L - M30, F - L - M31, F - L - M32, F - L - M33, F - L - M34, F - L - M35, F - L - M36, F - L - M37, F - L - M38, F - L - M39, F - L - M40, F - L - M41, F - L - M42, F - L - M43, F - L - M44, F - L - M45, F - L - M46, F - L - M47, F - L - M48, F - L - M49, F - L - M50, F - L - M51, F - L - M52, F - L - M53, F - L - M54, F - L - M55, F - L - M56, F - L - M57, F - L - M58, F - L - M59, F - L - M60, F - L - M61, F - L - M62, F - L - M63, F - L - M64, F - L - M65, F - L - M66, F - L - M67. --

On page 33, line 21, please delete the heading "Table A7"

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 22 on page 33 with the following amended paragraph:

-- ~~Fusion~~ Examples of fusion proteins F1 - L1 - M of the present invention (in which F1 is [[a]] the Fc portion from human IgG4 ~~as indicated in Table A3~~, L1 is the peptide linker [[of]] described above ~~Table A4~~, and M is a modified TPO sequence of ~~Table A1~~ the invention) include the following:

F1 - L1 - M1, F1 - L1 - M2, F1 - L1 - M3, F1 - L1 - M4, F1 - L1 - M5, F1 - L1 - M6,
F1 - L1 - M7, F - L - M8, F1 - L1 - M9, F1 - L1 - M10, F1 - L1 - M11, F1 - L1 - M12,
F1 - L1 - M13, F1 - L1 - M14, F1 - L1 - M15, F1 - L1 - M16, F1 - L1 - M17, F1 - L1 - M18,
F1 - L1 - M19, F1 - L1 - M20, F1 - L1 - M21, F1 - L1 - M22, F1 - L1 - M23, F1 - L1 - M24,
F1 - L1 - M25, F1 - L1 - M26, F1 - L1 - M27, F1 - L1 - M28, F1 - L1 - M29, F1 - L1 - M29,
F1 - L1 - M30, F1 - L1 - M31, F1 - L1 - M32, F1 - L1 - M33, F1 - L1 - M34, F1 - L1 - M35,
F1 - L1 - M36, F1 - L1 - M37, F1 - L1 - M38, F1 - L1 - M39, F1 - L1 - M40, F1 - L1 - M41,
F1 - L1 - M42, F1 - L1 - M43, F1 - L1 - M44, F1 - L1 - M45, F1 - L1 - M46, F1 - L1 - M47,
F1 - L1 - M48, F1 - L1 - M49, F1 - L1 - M50, F1 - L1 - M51, F1 - L1 - M52, F1 - L1- M53,
F1 - L1 - M54, F1 - L1 - M55, F1 - L1 - M56, F1 - L1 - M57, F1 - L1 - M58, F1 - L1 - M59,
F1 - L1 - M60, F1 - L1 - M61, F1 - L1 - M62, F1 - L1 - M63, F1 - L1- M64, F1 - L1 - M65,
F1 - L1 - M66, F1 - L1 - M67. --

On page 33, line 37, please delete the heading "Table A8"

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 38 on page 33 with the following amended paragraph:

-- A fusion ~~Fusion~~ protein with wild-type human TPO (M68 ~~of Table A1~~) is:
~~F1-L1-M59~~ F1-L1-M68.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 4 on page 34 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

-- Identification of T cell epitopes in TPO (1-174). (A) 20 healthy donors were tested for reactivity with 55 overlapping (by 12 amino acids) 15mer peptides derived from the TPO sequence. Donors that responded to peptides with an SI>2 were analyzed further by plotting the frequency of donor responses to each peptide. Prominent regions of immunogencity are ~~labelled~~ labeled according to the amino acid residue number in the TPO linear sequence and were determined by peptides that induced responses in 10% of donors; however, borderline responses where individual SI values >1.95 (~~hatched~~ two-tone black and white bars) were achieved and if two (or more) adjacent peptides induced responses in 5% of donors (Region 1). (B) The mature sequence of TPO (SEQ ID NO: 4) with regions of immunogenicity boxed and highlighted in bold. --